

# The Season's Children's Books

By HILDEGARDE HAWTHORNE.

V. School, Adventure, and Workaday Books for Boys and Girls.

**B**OOKS for boys and girls in their 'teens move out of the realm of imagination except in rare instances and become chronicles of school, vacation or working life or of adventure in various parts of the world with the emphasis on fact. The heroes and heroines are boys and girls like, or supposedly like, those who read of them. Many of these books run in series, taking the small group through various phases of their growing life, carrying them on from the age of children to that of youth or maiden. Young people appear to like this sort of continued story. Sometimes they are remarkably good, considering that inspiration does not enter into their making. Often they seem to older readers too stereotyped, too lacking in actual character drawing or freshness of view to be worth the trouble of writing or reading. It is difficult indeed to judge them from the standpoint of the readers for whom they are intended, for they are often further removed from adult interest than the fairy or the folk yarns meant to appeal to a younger group but which are less circumscribed in their audience.

Place aux dames. I shall begin with the books written for girls. And those that belong in series shall head the list. The Friendly Terrace Series, by Harriet Lummis Smith, has been running for four or five years, and this season we have "Peggy Raymond's Way" (The Page Company). Peggy is now a junior at college, and a few pages in the beginning of the story

school, later during the holidays. "Wetamoo" is Anne's ceremonial name, won at her woodcraft work. In this book there is a good deal of community work among Italians, and Anne is the moving cause for the building of a hospital. The book is intended to show how much a girl can do for the community in which she lives

a favorite with girl readers. The book is crowded with incident, with the frolic and the work of college, with aspirations and struggle towards them, and with the boys and girls who share Caroline's life. It is the University of California that is the scene, and the writer knows her local well. Marion Ames Taggard has written a



From "The Young Alaskans on the Missouri." By Emerson Hough. (Harper.)

and what interest and happiness she can get out of her work and her devotion. It is a lively narrative. Another series that turns its attention to the possibilities young people can find in working for the bettering of their surroundings is that telling of the various activities of Trudy and Timothy by May Aiken. "Trudy and Timothy, Foresters" (Penn), show these indefatigable youngsters saving the fine trees about the village of their home, Todd's Ferry, from destruction, working with the forest ranger, altering the crabbedness of a mean old man into a finer feeling and saving a house from fire. It is all very convincingly told, and it certainly holds the attention. Books of this kind ought to be helpful in making children realize the importance of our natural resources and the beauty of the out of doors.

Two new books in a new series are "Jeanne" and "Jeanne Entertains" (Penn), by Alice Ross Colver. Here it is a French girl who is the heroine, a little girl whose story begins with the devastation of her village and her home by the Germans. There is a real charm in the first story, the only one that has come into my hands, and the pictures of France and its people are convincingly given. The child is saved from manifold dangers and comes to America a stowaway dressed as a boy, and there finds a home and a mother. A book to make its readers feel the nearness of France and her people and to be glad of the association between the two countries.

A lively picture of life in a co-ed college is written by Lela Horn Richards in "Caroline at College" (Little, Brown). It is the second in its series, Caroline already being

whole shelf of books for girls, who take to her tales like ducks to water. "Who is Sylvia" (Doubleday, Page), carries on the life of Sylvia, begun in an earlier volume, from the moment she is eighteen, ending with a love story just beginning. The song of Sylvia is used as the theme, each line marking a phase of Sylvia's experiences. A fresh and attractive story.

The second book in the Melbrook Series is "Georgina Finds Herself" (Jacobs), by Shirley Watkins, well known for her girl stories. Georgina, back from a five year residence in France, has some trouble adjusting herself and her ideas to American life. How she succeeds, and the persons and the elements that help her to this success make the tale. It is written with considerable spirit and will entertain older readers as well as those for whom it was written.

"Adele Doring in Camp" (Lathrop, Lee & Shepard), is the fourth of its series. The camp is on one of the islands of the St. Lawrence, an enticing place that is painted with charm. There is a mystery concerning a youth belonging in those parts, which is solved by Adele and her friends. A good outdoor story full of boys and girls and their interests.

Lucy Fitch Perkins has been writing stories of travel, with twins for her hero and heroine, these many years. This year "The Swiss Twins" (Houghton, Mifflin) is her title, and she shows the life and the country she has chosen with the same accuracy and narrative power that have gone into the making of the previous volumes. The book is the same in form with the others in the series and is charmingly illustrated with drawings af-

ter pencil sketches by the author. Another book series that features both twins and foreign parts is the "Twin Traveler Series" by Mary H. Wade. "Twin Travelers in China and Japan" (Stokes), is the new one and the same boy and girl who have visited so many countries make a trip which they decide is the best yet. Lots of information and a good deal of fun goes into the making of these pretty books.

Another college story is "Pegs—Sophomore" (McCann). Pegs has been through freshman year in an earlier book. On she goes, conducted by Christina Catrevas and Jean Wick, and she goes brightly and joyously, with plenty of adventures suitable to her environment, and to the fact that she teaches a class of wild boys for the College Settlement Club. There is enough mystery to keep a young reader absorbed, a counterfeiting swindle which is exposed through clever detective work by the girls and the slum boys. A new volume is promised for next year.

The first in a new series is "The Little Cockalorum" (Penn). It is the story of a girl who starts in to earn money to go to college. Incidentally, she sets her father, who is an artist with more talent than money, on his feet. These story girls are certainly wonders, but they bring a tinge of romance to life with these successes of theirs. Wallis Simkins is the author given on the title page, though the introduction is signed "The Authors."

Another new series, The Penn Lane Books, starts with "The Newcomer in Penny Lane" (Scribner's). A country town is the setting, and the story is written to appeal to both boys and girls of school age. There is an orphan boy in the



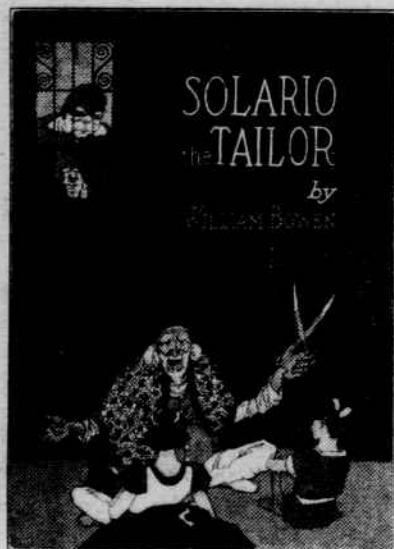
From "Poems of American Patriotism." Selected by Brander Matthews. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

talé and various complications, and the story is told intimately and cosily. Joslyn Gray is the author. "Mary in California" (Macmillan) is a new volume following "Mary in New Mexico." Constance Johnson is the writer, and the tales are based on the adventures of a real family. The Californian background is excellently painted, there is mystery and adventure mixed in with the history and description and the book is particularly striking because of its impression of reality in both characters and setting.

That ends the series for girls. Now for the boys.

It is the good habit to get men who have had actual experience of what they write about to do many of these books for boys. "Lieutenant Comstock, U. S. Marine" (Penn), number three in its series, is written by Lieut.-Col. Giles Bishop, Jr., U. S. M. C., who was with his men in France and knows well of what he tells. He writes a corking good yarn, moreover, and makes the service and the adventures living things. There is considerable excitement with German spies in this story, and the Lieutenant's sister complicates matters, too. Boys, and their sisters too, ought to like this book. Another book by an expert is "The Woods Rider" (Century), following "Wilderness Honey," both by Frank Lillie Pollock. Mr. Pollock's business is keeping bees, and he goes with his tiny workers from the lower Mississippi to Canada each year, following the flowers.

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From "Solario the Tailor." By William Bowen. (Macmillan Co.)

run over the events covered in previous volumes sufficiently to give new readers enough background to go ahead with this story on its own basis if they choose. Miss Smith writes straightforwardly and sincerely and makes her girls very real. Peggy gets married in this story, which probably puts an end to this series, for with marriage girls pass into a new world where the 'teens are not expected to follow—where the real novel begins. And there is another love affair. But mostly the story is concerned with the adjustments to life and its duties of the four girls of Friendly Terrace, with the fun they have and the talks they talk. It is a good, sound and wholesome story.

For much younger girls is the series known as the Little Maid Historical Series, by Alice Turner Curtis. These books take a couple of small girls and set them in a historic background, where they play their part in the incidents of the period. "A Little Maid of Virginia" (Penn) has its setting in Yorktown during 1781. The two children are suspected as spies before the tale is over, and one of them is made a prisoner. There are a number of adventures, and the whole is amusing and well done, but there is not much flavor of the actual life of the time. The history is accurate, however, and will familiarize its little readers with those last months of the War of the Revolution.

"Anne Thornton, Wetamoo" (Penn), is the title of number two of a series called the Woodcraft League. There are four girls whose fortunes we follow, first at



From "Polaris: The Story of an Eskimo Dog." (Macmillan Co.)